

Effects of climate change

†476. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious concern has been expressed over the issue of changes in climate, especially on global warming in the environment summit organized in Nairobi during the last year, 2006;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve this problem;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ultraviolet rays of sun directly fall on the surface of earth due to expansion of a hole in Ozone layer as a result of which diseases regarding skin, skin cancer and eyes are on the increase; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to get rid of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The twelfth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the second Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol took place at Nairobi in December 2006, wherein various issues for addressing Climate Change and global warming were discussed. Most of the developing countries, including India, expressed the view that as per Kyoto Protocol, developed countries that have ratified the Protocol should take on further commitments beyond the year 2012 at the earliest.

(b) India is engaged in the International Climate Change Regime, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol, and various partnerships with other countries under the UNFCCC. While India does not have any Green House Gases (GHG) abatement commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, nevertheless a range of policies and programs help mitigate climate change. These include:

- (1) Improving energy efficiency & conservation as well setting up of Bureau of Energy efficiency
- (2) Power sector reforms
- (3) Promoting hydro and renewable energy
- (4) Promotion of clean coal technologies

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (5) Coal washing & efficient utilization of coal
- (6) Afforestation and conservation of forests
- (7) Reduction of gas flaring
- (8) Use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport
- (9) Encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems
- (10) Environmental quality management

(c) The depletion of the Ozone Layer results in an increase of UV-B and UV-C radiation reaching the earth's surface leading to skin and eye diseases. India is a party to the Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that Deplete the Ozone layer. A country program was prepared in 1993 and is under implementation to phase-out production and consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances namely chloro-fluoro-carbons (CFCs), carbontetra-chloro (CTC), halon, methyl bromide, methyl chloroform and hydro-chloro-fluoro-carbon (HCFCs). As per the control schedule of the Montreal Protocol, the production and consumption of CFC, halon and CTC are to be phased out by 2010. The production and consumption of methyl chloroform and methyl bromide are to be phased out by 2015 and production and consumption of HCFC are to be phased out by 2040.

(d) The major health problems that may occur due to such depletion of Ozone Layer pertain to skin Problems like Skin Cancer, Cancer Burn and Pterygium and Eye Problems like Cataracts and Degeneration of Macula. The facilities for treatment of Skin and Ophthalmic related diseases are available in the Central Government Hospitals. Moreover, a National programme for Control of Blindness is in operation in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Pollution in Delhi

477. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether as per report of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Delhi is at risk of losing air quality because of rising pollution;
- (b) if so, its salient features concerning Delhi; and